



Integration of ALS
Control Systems

Automation, Robotics and
Simulation Division

Intelligent Systems
Branch (ER2)

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Integration of Advanced Life Support Control Systems

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Integrated Testing

- The development of stand-alone systems is relatively well understood
- When you put systems together, interesting and unpredictable things happen
 - Specifically, the integrated system behaves differently than the stand-alone systems behave separately
- When we have done this before, actually integrating these systems has driven out requirements and identified technology gaps in the ALS program
- Based on that experience, we have identified control system architecture and integration as a critical technology gap
- AIM proposed an integrated test to explore the design constraints and integration requirements of control systems



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Test Objectives

- AIM Test was designed
 - To stress interfaces
 - To identify information flows
 - To explore operations concepts and dependencies
 - To investigate architecture capabilities and requirements
- Intent is also to determine what types of data and autonomous capabilities will be required by crew, vehicle and ground control during complex mission scenarios
 - What decisions must be made, where are they made, what information is needed to make those decisions, how does the information get there, and how reliable is the information
 - These need to be determined to identify whether infrastructure and architecture can support such capabilities



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Test Components

- Controls Investigation
 - WRS preprocessor systems with independent control systems for each reactor
 - Aerobic bioreactor
 - Anoxic bioreactor
- ARS simulation
- Scenario development and Task analysis
 - Mapping command and data flows to capabilities
- Narrative Integration



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Controls Investigation

- The two bioreactors “stand in” for any two interdependent systems
 - e.g. ARS and WRS
 - Flight systems are developed independently
 - Separate System Requirements Specifications
 - Interfaces are defined and controlled
 - Separate subcontractor organizations
 - Developed at different times in the program
- Question:
 - What requirements must be levied on each system to enable integration of the control systems?



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Controls Development Process

- Three prerequisites are required to develop a process control system
 - Process must be steady-state stable
 - Process must be controllable
 - i.e. there must be control (dependent) parameters and manipulated (independent) parameters
 - Process must be observable
 - i.e. there must be observable parameters that correspond to the controlled parameters



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Controls Models

- There are also three types of models/analysis required for process control development
 - Stochiometric model
 - Equilibrium model
 - Control-relevant model
 - Dependent on optimization criteria
- These models are *necessary* to design a controllable system



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Lessons Learned from Integrated Testing

Lesson 1 is that systems must be *designed* for controllability

- *Control* in this context means bringing the process back into equilibrium in the desired optimization range when the process is perturbed by input or environmental variations
- Controllability is design sensitive
 - Therefore the control design precedes the hardware design of the system
 - Controllability and observability dictate the sensor selection and placement
- This is in contrast to spacecraft avionics design, where software requirements are derived *from* the hardware design



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Control (A) + Control (B) \neq Control (A+B)

Lesson 2 is that

- Controllability is not additive for interdependent systems
 - Analysis and Design must encompass entire system
 - Analysis of system components provides no information about system controllability



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Interdependence Causes Complexity

Lesson 3 is that the complexity of integrating the bioreactor control systems is not just an attribute of the biology, but also of the interdependence of the processes

- *Process* in this context refers to a transformation of something to something else
 - Processes have rates, control variables and dependent variables
- *Interdependence* means that changes in the parameters of one system necessitate changes in the controls of another system, either
 - automatically (as in the case of the bioreactors) or
 - by intent (a manual or autonomous command)



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Conclusion

- These lessons can be true of autonomous and automated systems
- The possibility of instability is one of the drivers to disallow automation of on-board systems
 - System dependencies are often discovered *in-situ*, after deployment
 - Automation can enable those dependencies
 - Autonomy and automation added after subsystem design can also generate dependencies between subsystems that were designed to be independent



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Importance

- The Constellation Program has autonomy and automation requirements different from previous programs
- The *design* of such systems requires risk mitigation and engineering strategies different from previous programs
 - This is not the same as developing autonomy and automation technology
- Subsystem requirements must be derived from integrated design
 - Development of subsystem *specifications* in contrast to subsystem functional *requirements* and constraints